



Recreation Department

PARK COMMISSIONERS
Shirley Canniff
Leslie Mayer
Jen Rothenberg
Phil Lasker
Scott Walker
Josh Fenollosa - Associate
Sarah Carrier- Associate

MEETING NOTICE

The Park and Recreation Commission
Tuesday, September 13, 2022
7:00 PM - REMOTE MEETING via ZOOM

AGENDA

- 1) Open Forum – Public Comment
- 2) FY 24 CPA Requests
Request from Friends of Crusher Lot – Assessment and Rejuvenation Plan
- 3) Basketball Court Discussion – How Many, Current Conditions, Addition of Multi Court Area. Etc..
- 4) Capital Project Updates
 - A - Spy and Parmenter Playgrounds
 - B - Robbins Playground
 - C – Arlington Reservoir Phase II
 - D - Stratton, Peirce, Bishop ARPA Project
 - E – Hurd Field Project
 - Arlington on Tap Proposal – Water Filling Stations
 - F – Poets Corner
- 5) Approval of Minutes – 8/9/2022
- 6) Special Event Approval – Bark for Life – 10/30/2022
- 7) Comments and Items for Future Meetings:
- 8) Correspondence Received: Hills Hill – Sara Alfaro-Franco, Cheryl Marceau, Flynn Monks, Wynelle Evans
- 9) New Business

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.
When: Sep 13, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcufumhpzggG9Qb0sSEmTORzHHIMoceOY0h>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Capital Plan
Arlington Park and Recreation Commission

FY Year	2023	2024	2025	Source	FY 24 Totals	FY 25 Totals	FY 26 Totals
Location	Budget	Budget	Budget				
ADA Plan Implementation	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	Capital	\$135,000	\$685,000	\$735,000
ADA Study							
Bishop Field							
Bishop Playground							
Bricker							
Buck Field							
Buzzell Playground							
Buzzell Field							
Crosby Field							
Crosby Playground							
Crosby Tennis			\$541,002				
Cutter Playground							
Family Study	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000				
Florence Field							
Florence Ave Playground							
Hardy School							
Hubbert Street							
Hills Hill							
Hill Field							
Locke Playground							
Maypole Field and Playground							
Maypole Field Basketball Court							
Mendomy Rocks	\$300,000						
McClennan Playground and Skate	\$400,000						
Mountain Biking Trail							
North Union							
Ottozon							
Parallel		\$500,000					
Parmenter							
Perce School Turf Area							
Phelan Ave							
Playground Audit and Repairs	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000				
Potts Corner Field and Playground	\$510,324						
Reservoir							
Reservoir Playground							
Robbins Farm							
Robbins Farm Client Side							
Scannell Field and Historic Sky		\$825,517					
Spy Pond Field							
Spy Pond Playground Surfing							
Spy Pond Shoreline Playground							
Spy Pond Tennis							
Summer Street							
Summer Street/Buck Fencing							
Thornhill Dog Park		\$280,850	\$280,850				
Thornhill Field		\$280,850	\$280,850				
Turkey Hill							
W.A. Purvis BB	\$30,000						
W.A. Purvis Field							
W.A. Purvis LL							
Waldo			\$800,000				
Wellington Courts							
Wellington Playground & Cleanup							
Subtotal CDBG/Other							
Subtotal CPA							
Subtotal Town Parks-Capital	\$5,258,241	\$1,991,375	\$1,776,002				
Total							

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**Department Summary of
Capital Budget Requests**
Town of Arlington
730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

Requesting Dept.	RECREATION
Department Head	Joe Connelly
Fiscal Year	FY2024

Project Title	Priority	Year 1 Cost	5-year Cost
ADA Study Implementation Program	1	\$ 50000	\$ 250000
Playground Audit and Safety Improvements	1	\$ 75000	\$ 375000
Parallel Park	1	\$	\$ 500000
Thorndike Field Design	-2	\$	\$ 250000
Ed Burns Arena Parking Study	1	\$ 75000	\$ 75000
Crosby Tennis Courts	2	\$	\$
Hills Hill Field Renovation	2	\$	\$
Mountain Biking Trail Area	2	\$	\$
Poets Corner Field	1	\$	\$
Feasibility Study	1	\$ 10000	\$ 50000
Waldo Park Playground Renovaton	1	\$	\$ 600000
Rink Parking Study	1	\$	\$
Scannell Baseball/Softball Field	1	\$	\$
Skateboard Park at McClennan	1	\$	\$
Spy Pond Playground	1	\$	\$
Thorndike Off Leash Area	2	\$	\$
Turkey Hill Access Point	3	\$	\$

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Town of Arlington Community Preservation Act Committee

2022-2023 CPA Application Process

Summary

The Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC) is pleased to invite project applications for funding under the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in the 2024 fiscal year budget cycle.

There are two phases in the CPA funding application process: a preliminary application and a final application. The purpose of the shorter preliminary application is to ensure that proposed projects are eligible for CPA funding consideration before the applicant completes the far more detailed final application.

Preliminary applications received by October 7, 2022 will be eligible for consideration by the CPAC for advancement to the final application phase. The CPAC will evaluate preliminary applications and invite eligible applicants to submit a full application due in December 2022.

Preliminary and final project applications will be reviewed by the CPAC at its regularly scheduled meetings, which are open to the public. Final applications voted upon favorably by the CPAC will be recommended to the Town Meeting for funding at Annual Town Meeting commencing in April 2023. CPA project funding appropriated by Town Meeting will be available on or after July 1, 2023, which is the start of fiscal year 2024.

Before submitting CPA funding applications, please carefully review the chart from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue at the end of this document. It summarizes allowable spending purposes under the CPA. Applications submitted to the CPAC for FY2024 funding must clearly fit one or more of these purposes to be considered for funding. The CPA legislation (www.communitypreservation.org/content/text-legislation) provides detailed definitions of the chart categories. Please also note that in accordance with state law, CPA funds may not be used for maintenance.

Additionally, the committee's annual reports about recent CPA projects and budgets will be especially helpful to applicants who are new to CPA in Arlington (see www.arlingtonma.gov/communitypreservation)

Applicants are invited and encouraged to contact the CPAC to ask any questions regarding the application process for FY2024 funding and to ensure their understanding of which projects meet allowable CPA spending purposes.

Contact: Julie Wayman, CPAC Liaison, JWayman@town.arlington.ma.us or 781-316-3005.

Step One

Applicants must submit one (1) electronic copy of the Preliminary Application (pages A1-A3 of this document) to the Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC) **no later than October 7, 2022**, with the electronic copy sent to JWayman@town.arlington.ma.us.

Preliminary applications must contain a brief description of the project including critical dates, amount requested, total project cost, rationale for the qualifying CPA funding category, property owner information, and community benefit.

The CPAC will review submitted preliminary applications to ensure the proposed projects can be legally funded from Community Preservation funds. Applicants will be notified in October about eligibility to submit a final application based on this determination.

Step Two

If a project is determined to be eligible for CPA funding, the applicant will be asked to complete a Final Application due in December 2022 (date TBA).

Please note that being invited to submit a final application does not imply project approval or endorsement from the CPAC, only that the project is likely to meet the basic qualifications for CPA funding set forth by state law. Only after reviewing all Final Applications will the CPAC determine which projects to recommend to Town Meeting for funding.

The following information will be required to complete the Final Application:

- **Goals:** What are the goals of the proposed project?
- **Community Need:** Why is the project needed? Does it address needs identified in existing Town plans?
- **Community Support:** What is the nature and level of support for this project? Include any letters of support and petitions.
- **Project Documentation:** Attach any applicable engineering plans, architectural drawings, site plans, photographs, any other renderings, relevant studies or material.
- **Timeline:** What is the schedule for project implementation, including a timeline for all critical milestones?
- **Credentials:** How will the experience of the applicant contribute to the success of this project?
- **Budget:** What is the total budget for the project and how will funds be sourced and spent? All items of expenditure must be clearly identified. Distinguish between hard and soft costs and contingencies. (NOTE: CPA funds may not be used for maintenance.)
- **Other Funding:** What additional funding sources are available, committed, or under consideration? Include commitment letters, if available, and describe any other attempts to secure funding for this project.

- **Maintenance:** If ongoing maintenance is required for your project, how will it be funded?
- **Impact on Town Budget:** What, if any, potential secondary effects will your proposed project have on the Town's Operating Budget? Are there any capital projects that rely on the successful completion of your project?

Additional information, as applicable, may also be required. Such as:

- **Control of Site:** Documentation that you have control over the site, such as a Purchase and Sales Agreement, option or deed. If the applicant does not have site control, explain what communications have occurred with the bodies that have control and how public benefits will be protected in perpetuity or otherwise.
- **Deed Restrictions:** In order for funding to be distributed, an appropriate deed restriction, meeting the requirements of Chapter 184 of Mass General Laws pursuant to section 12 of the Community Preservation Act, must be filed with the CPAC. Provide a copy of the actual or proposed restrictions that will apply to this project.
- **Acquisitions:** For acquisition projects, attach appraisals and agreements if available. Attach a copy of the deed.
- **Feasibility:** Provide a list of all further actions or steps that will be required for completion of the project, such as environmental assessments, zoning approvals, and any other known barriers to moving forward.
- **Hazardous Materials:** Provide evidence that the proposed project site is free of hazardous materials or there is a plan for remediation in place.
- **Permitting:** Provide evidence that the project does not violate any zoning ordinances, covenants, restrictions or other laws or regulations. What permits, if any, are needed for this project? Provide the expected date of receipt for necessary permits, and copies of any permits already acquired.
- **Environmental Concerns:** Identify all known wetlands, floodplains, and/or any natural resource limitation that occur within the boundaries of your submission.
- **Professional Standards:** Evidence that appropriate professional standards will be followed if construction, restoration or rehabilitation is proposed. Evidence that the applicant and the project team have the proven or potential capacity to conduct the scope and scale of the proposed project, as evidenced by project leaders with appropriate qualifications and technical experience or access to technical expertise.
- **Further Attachments:** Assessor's map showing location of the project.

One (1) electronic copy Final Application must be submitted to the CPAC by the published deadline in order to be considered for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

The CPAC will review the Applications. Applicants will be contacted if additional information or an interview is required. The CPAC may also request to visit the site of the proposed project.

Applicants submitting Final Applications will present their projects at a CPAC Public Meeting in January or February 2023 to address questions from the CPAC and Arlington

residents. Applicants will be required to provide summary information about the project for review at the Public Meeting. This is also an opportunity for applicants to ask the CPAC any questions regarding the application or funding process.

Unless an applicant can demonstrate that a significant opportunity would otherwise be lost, applications will not be accepted after the deadlines. **In order for the CPAC to consider a project proposal that cannot adhere to the deadlines as outlined in the Application Process, the project must meet the additional selection criteria as outlined in the Special Application Process (see page 7).**

Applicants will be notified in February/March 2023 about whether or not the CPAC plans to recommend their project at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

Step Three

The CPAC will consult with the Select Board, the Capital Planning Committee, the Finance Committee, the Redevelopment Board and the Planning Department staff regarding the selected projects. The CPAC will then reassess each project in light of these advisory consultations, including an examination of whether or not sponsors have performed sufficient research to identify the secondary budgetary effects of their projects.

The CPAC reserves the right to withdraw its support for any proposed project at this CPAC Meeting or at any point prior to the 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

Step Four

The CPAC will present the recommended projects at Annual Town Meeting for discussion and vote. Selected applicants are expected to be available to attend Town Meeting on the night their proposal is presented, to answer questions from Town Meeting members. Town Meeting has the final authority to award the CPAC's recommended funds from Arlington's Community Preservation Act Fund.

Step Five

Funding for projects approved by Town Meeting will be available starting July 1 of the applicable fiscal year (July 1, 2023 for FY2024).

Projects financed with CPA funds must comply with all applicable state and municipal requirements, including the state procurement law, which requires special procedures for the selection of products, vendors, services, and consultants. Project sponsors are required to meet with Arlington's Town Manager or his designee before the Town will enter any into contracts or issue any purchase orders. However, this requirement can be waived if adherence to procurement procedures will be overseen by a Town Department Head or other MCPPO certified third party.

CPA funds may not be used to reimburse project expenses incurred prior to the start of the fiscal year to which they were appropriated by Town Meeting. For FY2024-funded projects, all CPA expenses must be incurred on or after July 1, 2023, the start of FY2024.

(continued)

All CPA funds are administered and disbursed by the Town of Arlington. Project management, oversight, execution, and financial control will be under the joint control of the CPAC and the Town Manager or his designee.

The CPAC requires periodic status updates from the recipients of CPAC funding. Updates will occur no less than annually and upon project completion. Written updates will be coordinated by the liaison to the CPAC. The purpose of such update is to aid the CPAC in refining the CPA Plan, in identifying issues that may assist future applicants, and in reporting progress to the Town.

For more information regarding the **Funding Process**, refer to page 8 of this document.

2022-2023 CPA Timeline

August 2022	Preliminary Applications available
October 7, 2022	Preliminary Applications due
October 2022	CPAC invites Final Applications
December 2022	Final Applications due
January/February 2023	Public presentations by applicants
February 2023	CPAC selects recommended projects
February 2023	CPAC consults with other town bodies
February/March 2023	CPAC finalizes recommended projects
April 2023	Annual Town Meeting begins

If you have additional questions about this process, please contact:

Julie Wayman
CPAC Liaison
JWayman@town.arlington.ma.us
781-316-3005

Community Preservation Act Committee Town of Arlington

Funding Process

Initial Documentation

Following approval from Arlington's **Annual Town Meeting** or **Special Town Meeting**, the Community Preservation Act Committee will notify grant recipients of the funding that has been awarded. This award letter will outline any terms, funding conditions, or additional instructions applicable to the approved CPA grant. A confirmation of receipt must be returned to the CPAC as proof that project sponsors received the procurement procedures and accepted the terms and conditions outlined in the award letter.

Projects financed with CPA funds must comply with all applicable state and municipal requirements, including the state procurement law, which requires special procedures for the selection of products, vendors, services, and consultants. Project sponsors are required to meet with the Town Manager's staff before the Town will enter into any contracts or issue any purchase orders. However, this requirement can be waived if adherence to procurement procedures will be overseen by a Town Department Head or other MCPPO certified third party.

Should a property or artifact that has benefitted from CPA funding be sold or given to a new owner within five years of the award letter's issuance date, the CPA fund must be reimbursed the entire amount awarded unless the CPAC waives this requirement in part or in its entirety.

Supplementary contracts may be required by the Town Manager's Office, depending on the details of the approved project. For construction projects, recipients of CPA funds and all contractors on the project may be asked to have their general liability insurer add the Town of Arlington as an additional insured. Proof of this coverage must be submitted to the CPAC before any invoices can be paid using CPA funds. Projects on Town owned properties that are already required to indemnify the Town may be asked to reconfirm coverage before any invoices can be paid.

Updates to the CPAC

Grant recipients will notify the CPAC when work on projects has commenced and submit periodic project status updates. Progress Reports will be submitted to the CPAC and incorporated into the Annual Town Meeting CPA package. Approved projects will be carried out in accordance with the terms outlined in the award letter and any supplementary contracts from the Town. Any significant deviations from the project as presented in the original **Application** must be approved by the CPAC to ensure that such changes are CPA-eligible expenditures and within the scope of the project as approved by Town Meeting.

Grant recipients should contact the **Community Preservation Act Committee Liaison, Julie Wayman**, at JWayman@town.arlington.ma.us or 781-316-3005 to notify the CPAC of any significant changes to their projects.

Expenditures

Invoices will be submitted to the CPAC for their approval. Approved expenditures will be processed through the Town Comptroller's Office and paid through the Treasurer's Office. Any funds for a CPA project that remain at the completion of work will return to the general CPA fund once the project is officially closed. The remaining funds will then be reappropriated at the next Town Meeting, unless the CPAC votes to approve the use of remaining funds for the completion of additional related work. In such cases, approval will be dependent upon whether the additional proposed work is within the general scope and intent of the original **Application**.

Closing Process

CPA grant recipients will notify the CPAC in writing through a Final Progress Report when work is completed for their project. Once this notification is received, the CPAC will review the initial acceptance letter to make sure that all terms and conditions have been met. The CPAC will schedule a final site visit as appropriate with the CPA grant recipient to examine and photograph the completed work. If a final site visit is not appropriate for the project, the CPAC may accept photographs or hardcopies of the deliverable as additional proof that the CPA project has been completed. The CPAC will also generate a final summary of the CPA fund expenditures for the project. Once all tasks have been performed, the CPAC will vote to officially close the project file.

Once the project file is officially closed, the CPAC will work with the Town Comptroller to return any unexpended funds to the general CPA fund. **Projects must be officially closed before June 30 of the current year for the funds to be available for reappropriation at the following year's Town Meeting.**

Additional Requirements

CPA grant recipients are required to acknowledge the Community Preservation Act in all press releases, publicity materials, news, and written or oral announcements about work supported by CPA funds. When applicable and upon request, a sign acknowledging the contribution of CPA funds must be posted in a visible public location at the project worksite for the duration of the active work period. The sign will be furnished by the CPAC.

Projects receiving CPA funds must be completed within 30 months following the Town Meeting approval, unless the CPAC votes to approve an extension of time due to compelling and documented circumstances. Without such support, the CPAC may recommend to rescind any remaining CPA funds at a subsequent Town Meeting.

Community Preservation Act Committee Town of Arlington

CPA Funding – FY2024 Preliminary Application

One (1) electronic copy of the completed application must be submitted to the CPAC **no later than October 7, 2022** in order to be considered for advancement to the final application stage, with the electronic copy sent to JWayman@town.arlington.ma.us.

This PDF form may be completed on a computer using Adobe Reader.

1. General Information

Project Title: _____

Applicant/Contact: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

2. CPA Eligibility (refer to the chart on page A-3)

CPA Category (select one):

☐ Community Housing ☐ Historic Preservation ☐ Open Space ☐ Recreation

CPA Purpose (select one):

☐ Acquisition ☐ Creation ☐ Preservation ☐ Support ☐ Rehabilitation & Restoration

3. Budget

Amount Requested: _____ Total Project Cost: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please complete the project description on the following page

Brief Project Description and Rationale

Include the address/location and current owner of the property, as well as any critical dates. Describe the benefit of the project to the community. Attach supplemental information (photographs, drawings, documents, etc.) as desired. Include a brief rationale for your responses to the CPA category and purpose checkboxes on the cover page.

Enter your response below this line

Chart 1
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND ALLOWABLE SPENDING PURPOSES (G.L. c. 44B, § 5)

DEFINITIONS (G.L. c. 44B, § 2)	OPEN SPACE	HISTORIC RESOURCES	RECREATIONAL LAND	COMMUNITY HOUSING
	Land to protect existing and future well fields, aquifers and recharge areas, watershed land, agricultural land, grasslands, fields, forest land, fresh and salt water marshes and other wetlands, ocean, river, stream, lake and pond frontage, beaches, dunes and other coastal lands, lands to protect scenic vistas, land for wildlife or nature preserve and land for recreational use	Building, structure, vessel, real property, document or artifact listed on the state register of historic places or determined by the local historic preservation commission to be significant in the history, archeology, architecture or culture of the city or town	Land for active or passive recreational use including, but not limited to, the use of land for community gardens, trails, and noncommercial youth and adult sports, and the use of land as a park, playground or athletic field. Does <u>not</u> include horse or dog racing or the use of land for a stadium, gymnasium or similar structure.	Housing for low and moderate income individuals and families, including low or moderate income seniors Moderate income is less than 100%, and low income is less than 80%, of US HUD Area Wide Median Income
ACQUISITION Obtain property interest by gift, purchase, devise, grant, rental, purchase, lease or otherwise. Only includes eminent domain taking as provided by G.L. c. 44B	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CREATION To bring into being or cause to exist. <i>Seideman v. City of Newton</i> , 452 Mass. 472 (2008)	Yes		Yes	Yes
PRESERVATION Protect personal or real property from injury, harm or destruction	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
SUPPORT Provide grants, loans, rental assistance, security deposits, interest-rate write downs or other forms of assistance directly to individuals and families who are eligible for community housing, or to entity that owns, operates or manages such housing, for the purpose of making housing affordable				Yes, includes funding for community's affordable housing trust
REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION Make capital improvements, or extraordinary repairs to make assets functional for intended use, including improvements to comply with federal, state or local building or access codes or federal standards for rehabilitation of historic properties	Yes if acquired or created with CP funds	Yes	Yes	Yes if acquired or created with CP funds

Source: Department of Revenue (DOR) 10-5-2012 conference, "Recent Developments in Municipal Law," Workshop B - Local Finances

Hi Joe,

It's CPA application season, and some of us have been thinking that we might be able to get a small CPA grant to do an assessment and rejuvenation plan for the Crusher Lot. Something like hiring Parterre to do a tree inventory and come back with a proposal to plant more natives, maybe enhance the vernal spring, leave us with a maintenance plan, etc. If that worked, we'd follow it up with a proposal next year for funds to implement it. I think the grant applications would have to come from Parks & Rec, not the Friends. Do you think that's something the Commission would consider? We'd be willing to do the legwork. One of us could do a short presentation at a meeting.

Thanks,

Alan

=====

Alan H. Jones

Carr-Jones, Inc

jones@carr-jones.com

781-820-0306

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From: Larry Slotnick <larry.slotnick@gmail.com>
To: Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: Jim Ballin <jimballin@gmail.com>, Larry Slotnick <larry.slotnick@gmail.com>
Date: 08/25/2022 05:04 PM
Subject: Arlington on Tap and the Hurd Field renovation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Arlington's email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the REAL sender (whose email address in the From: line in "< >" brackets) and you know the content is safe.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Joe: Hope your summer is going well. The excitement begins soon enough. We've been busy at the Zero Waste committee putting together a proposal for Arlington on Tap, and I've attached it to this email.

You may have heard that Arlington was awarded \$50,000 in the new MA state budget, earmarked for outdoor bottle filling stations, such as the ones produced by Elkay. We've started discussions with various town officials about a pilot program to install 5+ stations using the funding.

An Elkay unit looks something like [this](#). The acquisition cost runs close to \$6300 for such a unit when you include the Direct Bury adapter kit that we would likely want, which simplifies installation.

Hurd Field has had drinking water available. I honestly haven't seen the plans for the renovated field, but am hoping that we can work together to explore how one of these Elkay units could be installed close to the Minuteman, and how this would impact the project. We're ready to roll up our sleeves to get AoT jumpstarted.

You'll see the AoT proposal attached.

thanks, Larry Slotnick

Attachments:

File: <u>Arlington on Tap Water Filling Station Proposal.pdf</u>	Size: 208k	Content Type: application/pdf
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ARLINGTON ON TAP

Sponsored by Zero Waste Arlington

Proposal for Water Bottle Filling Stations

August 2022

Purpose

In response to the ban on the retail sale of single-use plastic bottled water (aka: bottled water ban) that Arlington Town Meeting passed in the spring of 2022, Zero Waste Arlington (ZWA) is launching its *Arlington On Tap* campaign to bring greater awareness to the high quality of Arlington tap water, and to develop and promote a network of outdoor public water filling stations in Arlington.

Tap water in Arlington is a safe and healthy choice, and much more sustainable than bottled water. The bottled water ban, which will take effect in November 2022, will eliminate more than 750,000 disposable plastic water bottles per year in Arlington based on current sales estimates. With this bylaw, Arlington joins a growing list of communities in Massachusetts (currently 20) that are curbing single-use plastics to protect their environment and public health, reduce litter and plastic pollution, and reduce their Town's carbon footprint.

ZWA plans to complement the current inventory of indoor water bottle filling stations in most Town public buildings with outdoor locations along Massachusetts Avenue, the Minuteman bikeway, and Arlington parks. ZWA will maintain an *Arlington on Tap* webpage with a map of all available public drinking water sources in Town where anyone can easily locate convenient water filling stations as well as restaurants that have agreed to provide free water bottle filling or a glass of water. This network will be an important public amenity that will allow residents and visitors to stay hydrated on the go without the need to buy bottled water.

Goals

The *Arlington on Tap* campaign has five goals:

- 1) To make residents and visitors aware of the bottled water ban and promote tap water as a high-quality alternative to the purchase of single-use water bottles;
- 2) To encourage residents who don't habitually use refillable water bottles to make them a part of their daily routines;
- 3) To build out a network of outdoor water bottle filling stations throughout Arlington in areas with high foot and bicycle traffic, and areas where people congregate and recreate;
- 4) To work with restaurants to promote *Arlington on Tap* and encourage particularly take-out restaurants to provide free tap water to anyone, whether a customer or not. Participants receive public acknowledgment on the *Arlington on Tap* webpage, plus both a window sticker and digital *Arlington on Tap* icon, indicating the business is a supporter of *Arlington on Tap*; and
- 5) To develop and continually update an *Arlington on Tap* webpage and map showing all available sources of free public drinking water in Arlington.

Tap Water vs. Bottled Water

Arlington is a participant in the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) network of communities that draws its water from the Quabbin Reservoir in Central Massachusetts. It is regularly monitored at the source for purity, and subject to strict water quality standards to minimize the risk of exposure to harmful contaminants. The 2020 drinking water test results for Arlington published by the MWRA confirm that our drinking water quality is excellent:

<https://www.mwra.com/annual/waterreport/2020results/metro/arlington.pdf>

Tap water is very low-cost, making it an indispensable community resource. It does not contribute to litter, plastic pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions in our community the way bottled water does. Each plastic bottle discarded after a single use has a very low chance of being recycled. When tossed in the trash in Arlington, plastic bottles end up at an incinerator, which releases toxins into the atmosphere. From the oil used as a raw ingredient, to producing the bottle, to extracting the water often from distant sources and shipping it to a bottling plant, to shipping the bottled water to Arlington often in shrink wrapped pallets, single-use plastic water bottles contribute to climate change.

Existing Resources

The Town has been adding **indoor** water filling stations to Town buildings and public schools over the last several years to retrofit existing fountains and to enhance water resources in renovated buildings. Most of the public schools and Town buildings open to the public have or

soon will have water filling stations, including the Fox and Robbins Libraries, Town Hall, and the Community Center. Therefore, ZWA's focus on filling the gap following the single-use water bottle ban has been on **outdoor** drinking water sources.

DPW provided ZWA with a current inventory of 39 parks, playgrounds, schools, and community spaces in Town and whether they have drinking fountains and their condition. Of the 39 listed locations, the majority of which have water irrigation facilities, there are only approximately 13 water fountains. Of those 13, three are currently listed as turned off due to needed repairs. A few are relatively new, for example, at Magnolia Playground and Spy Pond Park, and are ADA compliant, while most are older style fountains that do not meet current standards, including having backflow preventers. In some cases, for example, recent playground renovations at the Stratton School and Lusiano Playground (Thompson School), drinking fountains have been removed and not replaced. An old fountain at the recently renovated Broadway Plaza was also removed and not replaced.

In preliminary discussions with Joe Connelly, Parks and Recreation Director and Mike Rademacher, Director of the Department of Public Works, ZWA has learned that the Town has been resistant to expanding the drinking fountain network due to ongoing maintenance issues, staffing concerns, and vandalism. The vandalism issues have often been reportedly more commonplace for fountains at playgrounds where younger children use the fountains as a device for play and inadvertently cause damage. While other nearby Towns, for example, Lexington and Cambridge, have made efforts to install outdoor water filling stations, Arlington has not. A realty business in Arlington Center installed a water filling station at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Swan Place attached to their building, but the unit has had some reported issues of tampering last year and the owner has not turned the unit back on this summer. To our knowledge, no other outdoor water bottle filling station exists in Arlington.

Siting

ZWA is proposing a sufficient number of outdoor water bottle filling stations to meet the everyday needs of Arlington residents and visitors when spending time outdoors in Arlington. This would include use of the Minuteman Bikeway, Arlington's parks and fields, Arlington's public spaces, including plazas and historical sites, and eating out in Arlington's restaurants. Currently, in the majority of Town fields, parks, and the bikeway, there are no sources of drinking water on site, and, therefore, active people, whether participants in youth sports or others using Town facilities, often bring disposable water bottles. This is not only an unsustainable product but also increases litter and trash. Very few of these bottles end up being recycled due to minimal public recycling collection containers.

While a final decision on the number of filling stations will depend on the completion of a needs assessment with the Town and fundraising efforts, we expect to install 8-10 water filling stations in several phases. In the first phase, 4-5 units would be installed in high priority areas, such as Thorndike field along the bike path and near the dog park; Broadway Plaza and/or Uncle Sam Park in Arlington Center, outside the Fox and Robbins libraries, behind the FoodLink building on the bike path, Hill's Hill field and Ed Burns Arena near the bike path, Hurd field near the bike path, and Arlington Heights along Mass. Ave. It is expected that phase 1 would be completed by spring or summer 2023. Phase two, depending on funding, would add additional filling stations at remaining priority areas in town within the next 1-2 years.

Decisions regarding the siting of water filling stations will need to be made in coordination with the Town Departments of Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and Facilities. Factors may include the proximity of a location to existing water lines, the condition of current infrastructure, and the overall demand at particular locations. ZWA intends to work closely with the Town to identify the most suitable locations based on logistical and other considerations.

In discussions with the Town of Concord, which installed water filling stations in 2015, they indicated that stand-alone water fountain/bottle dispensers are more costly than dispensers attached to a building or business that already has the plumbing and just needs a connection to the station through a wall. Concord mounted their outdoor fountains into metal collars set into concrete pads. This prevents having to break up the concrete for future repairs. To help prevent abuse, Concord recommends siting units in well-lit public locations, away from sand and gravel pits, and preferably directly over or near water mains. Outdoor units are not designed to be operational year round. The units generally need to be turned off and drained between November and May.

Installation Cost Estimates

ZWA has obtained cost estimates from several vendors. The most popular outdoor unit that has been installed in many other cities and towns is an Elkay tubular unit, with combination water bottle filling dispenser, an ADA compliant drinking water fountain, and a dog water bowl, as seen here:



ZWA has received bids on this unit that range from \$5,515-\$5,880. It is recommended to be installed with the optional outdoor direct bury adaptor kit (\$769-\$800). A similar unit without the dog bowl is Haws 3611 (\$6,303). Cost information from several vendors is attached to this proposal. Depending on the unit and selected vendor, these units are estimated to cost around \$6,500-\$8,000 each with recommended optional installation accessories. Installation costs will vary depending on the sited location and who does the installation (Town staff vs. contractors). It is estimated that installation may cost \$2,000-\$4,000 per unit.

A few other towns in MA have also launched “on tap” campaigns with great success. The first was Concord in 2015 following their first-in-the-state water bottle ban. Concord on Tap secured funding for the installation of six drinking water fountains, each with bottle filling capabilities, at Concord playing fields. The total project cost for procurement and installation of these six water fountains was \$64,482 (~\$10,747 per fountain). In 2019, Great Barrington on Tap installed three water filling stations for a cost of approximately \$8,000-\$10,000 each.

Maintenance Costs

ZWA recognizes that there are costs to operate and maintain water bottle filling stations and that funding for ongoing maintenance and repairs will be critical to the success of this project. While state budget funding will largely go to purchase and installation of the filling stations, ZWA will also discuss with Town officials options for a sustainable maintenance fund for ongoing operations and repairs, whether in-house or contracted services. ZWA recognizes that CPA funding may not be used for maintenance costs.

Other communities that have installed similar Elkay units have reported minimal vandalism and maintenance costs in the early years of operation. In particular, ZWA has had extensive communications with the Town of Concord regarding their Concord on Tap initiative, including their siting considerations and maintenance costs.

Melissa Simoncini, Senior Environmental and Regulatory Coordinator at Concord Public Works, reported, “We only positioned the standardized water fountains in locations that were close to a well-used water main, in areas where the fountain would be used frequently and where they would not pose challenges for other public works maintenance needs (mowing, plowing, etc). As far as ongoing maintenance our staff replied, ‘We typically aim for turning on in April (Patriots Day) and off in October (Columbus Day) of course it is all weather dependent. There is not much maintenance to speak of, we have a portable air compressor that we’ll blow the lines out with after we shut down for the season. We have the occasional burst tubing from freezing. All in all minimal maintenance.’” While Arlington may have different issues and experiences with its outdoor water sources, Melissa said she was happy to share any information and resources that might be helpful regarding how Concord installed and maintains their outdoor water filling stations.

Funding

The fiscal year 2023 state budget included a line item introduced by state Representative Sean Garballey and the budget was signed into law in July of this year. The line item states:

“...not less than \$50,000 shall be expended for the Outdoor Water Bottle Filling Station Initiative in the town of Arlington;”

ZWA is excited to collaborate with the Town on determining the best use of these funds to further the purpose of the allocation. In particular, ZWA hopes that this money will serve as “seed” money to achieve a phase 1 installation of 4-5 water bottle filling stations in high priority areas of Town.

ZWA is also planning on submitting an application for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding towards the end of 2022 for money to fund phase 2 implementation of additional outdoor water bottle filling stations next year. ZWA will develop a specific proposal and funding amount depending on the outcome of phase 1 efforts this year. ZWA has already received feedback that this type of project would be eligible for CPA funding if approved.

ZWA has participated in the Minuteman Bikeway Improvement Project planning meetings and has suggested a collaboration with bikeway stakeholders to implement water bottle filling stations as part of planned waysides, or rest stops, on the bike path. The potential wayside locations, as identified in the plan, would be ideal locations for water bottle filling stations since they are intended as areas for rest and rejuvenation for bikeway users.

Lastly, ZWA anticipates conducting outreach to Arlington businesses who may be interested in a public-private partnership to install and operate a public water bottle filling station outside their business. The existing unit outside the realty business in Arlington Center is a good model. ZWA is offering to help with maintenance, operation and signage to make this a valuable community resource. There may be other businesses in central or high traffic locations that would consider donating resources to provide public drinking water as part of their commitment to the betterment of the community they serve. In addition, the Town could consider a requirement to incorporate these amenities into approvals for new developments along Arlington’s major corridors.

TOWN OF ARLINGTON



PARK COMMISSIONERS
 Shirley Canniff
 Leslie Mayer
 Jen Rothenberg
 Scott Walker
 Phil Lasker
 Sara Carrier - Associate

Recreation Department

SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST

**For all gatherings over 50 people and private/corporate events*

Today's Date: 8/25/2022 (Requests must be made 1 month in advance)

Contact Name: Brianna Apruzzese

Phone (C): 508-858-5461

Email Address: bapru073@gmail.com

Home Address: 3 Speen Street Framingham, MA 01710

Purpose: Bark For Life/American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Greater Arlington

Estimated Attendance: 50-100

Day: Sunday

Date: October 30th

Set up Time: 9:00am

Start Time: 12:00pm

End Time: 3:00pm

Break Down: 5:00pm

Site Requested: Arlington Reservoir

Area at Site Requested: _____

Activities: This is a walk in which participants and their canine companions walk together. There are ceremonies to thank participants. Awards ceremony will conclude the event with best pet costume, first person in with a pet. We are also hoping to get canine vendors to come by.

Will food be on site? ☒ Yes ☐ No Please list all food: Assorted baked goods for bake sale

Will you be promoting this event via social media? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Fees:

Category	Group	Rate
Special Event	Arlington Resident/Organization	\$25/hr
Special Event	Non Arlington Resident/ Organizations	\$50/hr

Additional Requirements/Fees:

- Site is permitted as is. Groups are responsible for cleanup of the site including trash. If your event needs support from Public Works additional fees will be required and billed per hour (minimum 4 hrs).
- For groups over 150 people a police detail may be required, if your group is required to get a police detail you must set this up with the department before you will receive a permit.
- If you will be having prepared food at your event you must contact the Board of Health to get the appropriate food permit.

✓ By signing below I acknowledge and accept the rules and regulations (back) responsibilities for this permit and I agree to release, indemnify, and hold harmless the Town of Arlington from and against any and all claims, demands, losses, damages, defense costs, or liability of any kind which may arise out of, or is in any manner connected with, the above-described activity.

Brianna Apruzzese
 (Signature of Responsible Party)

8/25/2022
 (Date)

ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Draft
8/9/2022

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order for its online virtual meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Commission Members: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Shirley Canniff, Phil Lasker, Scott Walker, Sarah Carrier, and Josh Fenollosa., Recreation Director Joe Connelly was also present. Conservation Commission Liaison Cathy Garnett was also present.

Anticipated Speakers: None

Preliminary Matter: Phil Lasker took formal attendance via a roll call and read a statement pertaining to Governor Baker's Public Meeting Law change due to COVID-19 regarding virtual meetings. Joe Connelly read a statement to the public:

At the last meeting, the public was placed in the waiting room while discussions took place about the meeting itself. No votes were taken nor decisions made. I conferred with Town Counsel and confirmed that even general discussions should be open to the public and under a posted agenda item, and will be distributing the Open Meeting Law Summary to all Commission members and staff to refresh everyone's understanding.

Open Forum:

Ms. Melofchik raised her hand but was having audio issues and said would email the Commission.

Bat House Magnolia Gardens

Mr. Connelly reviewed the proposal from Reb Pearl to install a bat house at the Magnolia Community Garden. The Commission commented on the thoroughness of the proposal. Ms. Mayer motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

McHugh Bench Donation Menotomy Rocks Park

The Commission reviewed the request and recommended plaque language. Ms. Canniff motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

Capital Project Review

Mr. Connelly reviewed the capital projects with the commission:

Hills Hill Mountain Biking Feasibility Study

Review of the 8/2 public input session

Decision how to move forward discussion within the capital discussion

Spy and Parmenter Playgrounds

Parmenter in grading phase, Spy mobilization this week

Delivery of Equipment

Parmenter: 9/2

Spy: 9/22

Retaining wall complete at Parmenter

Change orders so far is resurfacing ramp that was damaged

Robbins Playground

Quick recap on interview with Crowley and Cottrell

The Commission discussed the importance of getting additional designers to look at this project

The Commission discussed the term Universal Design and the best way to integrate that into the project and RFP process

Mr. Connelly will draft an RFP for the Commission to review

Arlington Reservoir Phase II

Pathway work to begin soon

Discussed the planting warranty being one year and the current efforts of watering

Stratton, Peirce, Bishop ARPA Project

Demo at Stratton and Bishop – Peirce Scheduled for next two weeks

Waiting on equipment for Stratton (this week), Peirce last September

Peirce back up plan is to install mulch and rubber in the spring

All going to depend on October weather for rubber

Ms. Mayer asked to further investigate the EWF and binder option for Peirce

Hurd Field Project

Low Bid Quirk Construction

Kick Off Construction Meeting on Wednesday

The Commission discusses site access during construction and how to convey that to the public

Mr. Connelly will discuss this with the contractor at the first meeting

Poets Corner

Nothing new to report at this time

ADA Spectator Seating Ed Burns Arena

Complete

2024 Updated Capital Plan and CPA Requests

See attached for discussion

Parallel

DCR assistance financially is not possible

Looking to install a tipsy turvy climber for temp use

Robbins Play Equipment

Some removed for safety

Replacing swing parts and clamps (\$6k worth, on order)

Playground Safety Inspections 2022

Buzzell, Hibbert, Hills, Thompson School (late spring)

FY 24 Capital Plan Request and Multi-Year Commission Plan

The Park Commission and Mr. Connelly reviewed the multi-year capital plan. Mr. Connelly stated that although CPA is not due at this time it was important to determine those projects as well as ARPA to get a true understanding of total projects for the next 5 years.

Mr. Walker motioned to approve the following **capital** funding plan, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

Standing Capital

Feasibility Study - \$10,000

ADA - \$50,000

Playgrounds - \$75,000

FY 25

Capital – Parallel - \$500,000

Capital - Thorndike - \$250,000 for feasibility study (was modified, number in meeting discussion was \$500,000)

FY 26

Capital –Waldo Playground - \$600,000

Approval of Minutes – Minute Review

4/12/2022 – Motion to approve by Mr. Walker, seconded by Ms. Canniff, and approved 3-0-2.

5/10/2022 –Motion to approve by Ms. Rothenberg, seconded by Mr. Walker and approved 3-0-2.

7/12/2022 –Motion to approve as amended by Ms. Rothenberg, seconded by Ms. Mayer and approved 3-0-2.

Comments and Items for Future Meeting – Ms. Rothenberg asked that the Commission formally discuss basketball courts in town at an upcoming meeting.

Correspondence Received

The Commission reviewed the correspondence received.

Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn at 9:02 pm, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved by roll call vote 5-0.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Joseph Connelly.

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From: S AF <malta123saf@gmail.com>
To: jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 08/22/2022 04:29 PM
Subject: Opposed to Hill's Hill proposed project for young bike riders

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Hello Park and Recreation board,

My spouse and I are strongly opposed to changing our wooded areas to add artificial hills and obstacles for young bike riders. We're referring to the proposed project for Hill's Hill.

Our woods are precious as they are. Please leave them alone so everyone, and I mean everyone, can enjoy them. We should do everything in our power to allow open spaces where trees, birds, critters, people and nature can enjoy each other's company.

Let us know if you need additional information from us regarding this well intentioned, but ill advised project.

Thank you,
Sara Alfaro-Franco
Ruth Hersh

14 Wachusett Ave #2

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From: Cheryl Marceau <cheryl.a.marceau@gmail.com>
To: Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: 08/10/2022 10:11 AM
Subject: Hill's Hill Proposal -- Just Say No to Pump Track

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Hi Joe,

I'm very sorry I wasn't able to attend last night's meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee, as I understand some new information was presented which makes the Hill's Hill proposal of even more concern.

As environmental and conservation advocates said multiple times during the August 2 public meeting, Hill's Hill – including the meadow – contain native plants and is currently one of the few undeveloped open spaces in our town.

The town's tree department is busy planting street trees as fast as possible, demonstrating how important trees are to the town, so it's hard to understand why the town would seriously entertain a proposal to take down any trees, much less destroy a native woodland.

I learned from someone who attended last night's meeting that the cost of the project including the pump track is now projected to be closer to \$500,000, rather than the figure of \$350,000 that you cited on August 2.

In addition, last night's discussion apparently included references to legal concerns about having volunteers work next to heavy equipment. In other words, as some of us asked about very specifically (and were told no), the project would in fact require the use of heavy equipment in order to build more trails and especially to install the pump track in the meadow. The use of heavy earth-moving machinery would destroy the woods at Hill's Hill. There's just no way around that. And there's no way around the fact that building the pump track on the hill will require heavy equipment.

Advocates for the project kept pointing to Chelmsford as an example of why that needn't be the case, but I also understand that the Chelmsford land was logged first and THEN trees were planted. This is just insanity in an era when we NEED our mature and native plants, especially trees. New trees don't provide the carbon sequestration that mature trees provide.

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Teenagers built illicit bike tracks on the property. Now the town wants to make

things worse by building artificial terrain there, at a cost that is suddenly estimated to be 43% higher than originally proposed. It's hard to imagine how the consultant could have missed the mark by that much, which also makes me wonder if it won't just be much higher in the long run.

All that, for a facility that only some kids – not poor kids who can't afford bikes, not disabled kids who can't ride bikes, not most kids in East Arlington without easy access to the facility, not most adults – will use. (Despite multiple requests, nobody has actually provided estimated usage data for such a facility.)

The mountain biking advocates turned up in large numbers for the previous meetings, but the rest of us were only made aware recently of what is proposed, and so the public discussion didn't reflect what I'm sure would be a broader perspective if all taxpayers and residents knew about the proposal.

I am begging you to put the pump track somewhere other than on Hill's Hill, to refrain from tearing out native plants with heavy machinery, and to restore some sanity to this project. People have proposed other, much more buildable, locations for a pump track. If we're absolutely determined to build this no matter what, at least put it where it will cost less to build and not destroy native woodlands in the process.

Regards,
Cheryl Marceau

20

From: Flynn Monks <monks.flynn@gmail.com>
To: Joe Connelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
 Michael Jacoby Brown <mjbrown246@gmail.com>, ElaineTMM19 <elaine-tmm19@communication-exchange.com>, Montserrat Zuckerman <mzuckerman51@gmail.com>, Angela Olszewski <amolsewski@gmail.com>, Alan Tosti <abtosti@outlook.com>, Susan Webber <sdwebber@rcn.com>, Josh Arnold <josharnold52@gmail.com>, Laura Gitelson <lbg217@gmail.com>, Ann LeRoyer <annleroyer12@gmail.com>, Amy Slutzky <amy.l.slutzky@gmail.com>, Hila Bernstein <hila.bernstein@gmail.com>, "Beth O'Brien (Soraya's Mom)" <bethio33@gmail.com>, Xavid <xavid@xavid.us>, Wendy Richter <richterg@aol.com>, precinct19fcm@gmail.com, Matt Owen <mattowentmm@gmail.com>, Susan Ryan-Vollmar <susanryanvollmar@gmail.com>, Neva Corbo-Hudak <nevach@gmail.com>, Christine Deshler <christinedeshler@hotmail.com>, Doralee Heurtelou <doraleeh1@gmail.com>, Claire Johnson <clairejohnsontmm@gmail.com>, Melanie Brown <melb.tmm419@gmail.com>, Marlene Silva <marlenesilva.dem@gmail.com>, edwardtremblyprecinct19@gmail.com, lmayer@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc:
Date: 08/08/2022 02:02 PM
Subject: Re: Hills Hill Mountain Bike Park

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I think this sounds like a pretty wonderful idea. Love the idea of a mountain bike trail.

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 1:58 PM Joe Connelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us> wrote:

\$325,000 to \$365,000 to be exact. Again that is based off extremely conceptual concepts. The actual would depend on final design which may be totally different than the conceptual design discussion.

Joseph Connelly, M. Ed.
 Director of Recreation
 Town of Arlington

Arlington values equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are committed to building a community where everyone is heard, respected, and protected.

From: Michael Jacoby Brown <mjbrown246@gmail.com>
 To: Joe Connelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
 Cc: ElaineTMM19 <elaine-tmm19@communication-exchange.com>, Montserrat Zuckerman <mzuckerman51@gmail.com>, Angela Olszewski <amolsewski@gmail.com>, Alan Tosti <abtosti@outlook.com>, Susan Webber <sdwebber@rcn.com>, Josh Arnold <josharnold52@gmail.com>, Laura Gitelson <lbg217@gmail.com>, Ann LeRoyer <annleroyer12@gmail.com>, Amy Slutzky <amy.l.slutzky@gmail.com>, Hila Bernstein <hila.bernstein@gmail.com>, "Beth O'Brien (Soraya's Mom)" <bethio33@gmail.com>, Xavid <xavid@xavid.us>, Wendy Richter <richterg@aol.com>, precinct19fcm@gmail.com, mattowentmm@gmail.com, susanryanvollmar@gmail.com, nevach@gmail.com, christinedeshler@hotmail.com, doraleeh1@gmail.com, clairejohnsontmm@gmail.com, melb.tmm419@gmail.com, Marlene Silva <marlenesilva.dem@gmail.com>, edwardtremblyprecinct19@gmail.com, lmayer@town.arlington.ma.us
 Date: Mon, 8 Aug 2022 13:49:51 -0400
 Subject: Re: Hills Hill Mountain Bike Park

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From: Wynelle Evans <evco7@rcn.com>
To: jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us, scanniff@town.arlington.ma.us, lmayer@town.arlington.ma.us, jrothenberg@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 08/10/2022 12:40 PM
Subject: August 9 PRC discussion re: Hill's Hill

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Dear all—

I arrived late to last night's PRC meeting, but in time to hear the discussion about Hill's Hill.

I understand that the design stage is preliminary, and that nothing has been finalized—which means it's a great time to consider concerns and various options.

At last week's public forum, the main concern people raised was the location of the pump track, and the likely disruption to the area that its creation would cause. PRC and the designer assured us that much of the work would be done by hand and that there would be no need for heavy equipment.

At last night's meeting, however, when the use of volunteers to do some of the work was mentioned, another member rightly countered that there would likely be liability issues if volunteers were working "around machinery." Grading was also mentioned, which, to my understanding, would in fact require motorized equipment, bobcat-sized or larger. As you all know, the site has no access except for footpaths, and simply getting machinery to it would require clearing an access route.

The option to preserve this regenerating meadow is one that many people suggested, which is to allow trail use, and site the pump track elsewhere. I've suggested the small park by the basketball court on the other side of the rink, currently underutilized, and a quick ride from the trails in the woods, as well as much more easily accessible to any necessary equipment. It's also in keeping with Wendy Richter's idea about a linear aspect to the mountain bike park.

We don't know what level of use this proposed facility will draw. If it's minimal, then we're making permanent transformations for a handful of our residents. If it's significant, then the site will no longer be pleasant for walkers or anyone not on a mountain bike.

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Hill's Hill is one of our very few unimproved areas—all of which are greatly outnumbered by our parks and playgrounds. Most of our wild areas already share space with playgrounds and other improvements. The pressures on these areas are great. To transform one for a single dedicated use is a major loss for the town. This past week of extreme heat has been a challenge for many people, and the prospect of a walk in the woods at the end of another broiling day an essential relief. And this past week and the previous July heat wave are not anomalies—they are the new normal. We need to preserve our vanishing wild areas, their shade and cooling properties, their visual relief from roads and buildings—cited as very desirable by many respondents to the recent Open Space Survey—and recognize them for the critical refuge they provide humans, animals, and plant life alike. As our world heats up, they are ever more necessary.

I very much appreciate the Commission's work in thinking creatively about how best to use our recreational areas, and hope that you will see the enormous value of leaving Hill's Hill as a mainly wild area, to be enjoyed by all.

Thank you—
Wynelle

Wynelle Evans
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20 Orchard Place
Arlington, MA 02476
781.643.4547 office
781.859.9291 mobile
evco7@rcn.com

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